

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR KARA HAHN



FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

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October 5, 2015

Tomorrow: Legislature to Vote on Hahn's Effort to Wash Suffolk Free of Microbeads

Policy would protect waters from microplastic particles, aquatic die offs

WHAT: The Suffolk County Legislature tomorrow will vote on a proposal sponsored by Legislator Kara Hahn to ban the sale of personal care products containing microbeads, the small plastic exfoliating particle additives linked to aquatic die-off. Prior to the vote, Legislator Hahn will be joined by advocates and experts to discuss the environmental benefits its adoption will have for Suffolk County.

WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015
2 p.m.

WHERE: Evans K. Griffing Auditorium Lobby
300 Center Drive
Riverhead, New York 11901

WHY: At less than 5 millimeters in diameter, and typically smaller than 1 millimeter in diameter, microbeads are not filtered out by most by wastewater treatment systems, leading to their discharge into the surface waters. Once released, the beads pick up

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toxins as they flow from their original source. Due to their tiny size, after discharge, the now toxin laden particles are mistaken for food by small fish and other aquatic species, who consume and absorb the contaminants. Once in the system, these pollutants are recycled from smaller organisms to larger ones and eventually into the human food supply through consumption of contaminated organisms.

Under Legislator Hahn's proposal, a local phase-out will begin January 2018 for personal care products not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and on January 2019 for ones that are.

WHO: Legislator Kara Hahn, bill sponsor
Lemuel Srolovic, Environmental Protection Bureau Chief for the New
York State Attorney General's Office
Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director, Citizens Campaign for the
Environment
Jane Fasullo, Long Island Sierra Club